

GENE MARKERS FOR CHRONIC MUCOSAL INJURY

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention provides gene markers for chronic mucosal injury and ulcerative colitis.

Expression products of the *REG* gene family can be used to detect the presence of chronic mucosal injury in a body sample of a human. The expression products of a gene represented by a Hs.111244 polynucleotide can be used to detect ulcerative colitis in a body sample of a human.

Further, these markers can be used to differentiate humans with chronic mucosal injury from humans with common acute inflammatory colon disorder, common non-inflammatory benign colon disorder, and healthy colons. The degree of injury to the colon from chronic mucosal injury can be determined and the efficacy of therapy for chronic mucosal injury can be monitored. A method of screening compounds for anti-chronic mucosal injury and anti-ulcerative activity is also provided by these gene markers.